

Alamo Heights News

CITY OF ALAMO HEIGHTS

6116 BROADWAY

78209

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Citizens to Consider Charter Amendments, Tax Limitations

The Alamo Heights City Council has approved a special election on November 6 so voters can consider two amendments to the city charter and a tax limitation proposition. The council decided not to include a third proposed charter amendment, limiting the height of buildings to fifty-five (55) feet, due to possible confusion, misinterpretation and legal issues.

The first proposition the voters will consider is a charter amendment to bring the charter into compliance with state law by eliminating provisions that have been super-

seded by state law, replacing obsolete statutory references, and updating terminology and eliminating obsolete provisions.

A second proposition is a charter amendment that would change the city's government to a council-manager form. Based on comments at the public hearings, the City Council deleted a section of the original proposal that provided a process for the city manager to request reconsideration of his or her removal from office.

The third proposition concerns limiting ad valorem taxes on resi-

dential homesteads of disabled and elderly citizens and their spouses. The proposition would exempt eligible residents from both tax rate increases and appraisal value increases. The tax freeze would not apply, however, to improvements made to a residence, other than repairs.

The city will contract with Bexar County to conduct the election on November 6th. More details about the amendments and tax limitation proposition are available on the Web site at www.alamoheightstx.gov.

Shopping Locally Brings Benefits for Residents

Alamo Heights has a unique commercial district that provides a variety of goods and services. Residents can buy everything from clothing and gifts to antiques. You can also get dry cleaning and printing services as well as get your Medical needs met by local physicians and pharmacies. And, of course, area restaurants serve a variety of quality cuisines.

The City's one-of-a-kind businesses are an integral part of our distinctive character. The unique character of Alamo Heights is what brought many people here and will hopefully keep them here.

Many of the local businesses are owned by people who live in this community and are truly invested in the community's future. These local businesses often hire people with more specific product expertise for better customer service.

When residents shop locally, they not only benefit from the convenience but also contribute to the city's economy. Sales tax revenues go into the city's budget to help pay for municipal services. The money spent with local businesses also helps stimulate a thriving business environment as business owners hire employees and spend money in the area.

The next time you need a product or service, visit a local business to do your shopping. That action creates many benefits for you and the community.

Calendar

August

27	City Council Meeting	5:30 p.m.
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September

3	City Holiday - Labor Day	
5	Board of Adjustment Meeting	7:00 p.m.
10	City Council Meeting	5:00 p.m.
17	Special City Council Meeting	5:00 p.m.
18	Architectural Review Board	6:00 p.m.
24	City Council Meeting	5:30 p.m.

Note: Holiday Solid Waste Pickup Schedule will be in effect for the week of September 3rd.

911 for EMERGENCY

Fire/EMS (Non Emergency): 824-1281
Police (Non-Emergency): 822-3321
Police Administration Office: 822-6433
Police Investigations: 822-2164

CITY HALL

Administration: 822-3331
Taxes: 882-1502
Water: 882-1507
Court Clerk: 882-1501
Public Works: 826-0516 (includes permits, garbage & trash, brush, recycling, inspections, etc.)

Mayor & Aldermen

Louis Cooper-MAYOR
882-1511
lcooper@alamoheightstx.gov

Bobby Rosenthal- MAYOR PRO
TEM/PLACE 2
882-1513
brosenthal@alamoheightstx.gov

Stan McCormick-PLACE 1
882-1512
smccormick@alamoheightstx.gov

Jill Souter-PLACE 3
882-1514
jsouter@alamoheightstx.gov

Bill Kiel-PLACE 4
882-1515
bkiel@alamoheightstx.gov

Susan Harwell-PLACE 5
882-1516
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City Officials

Rebecca Waldman-CITY MANAGER
882-1500
rwaldman@alamoheightstx.gov

Shawn Eddy-PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
882-1506
seddy@alamoheightstx.gov

Darren Smith-FIRE CHIEF
832-2205
dsmith@alamoheightstx.gov

Rick Pruitt-POLICE CHIEF
832-2200
rpruitt@alamoheightstx.gov

Cynthia Barr-CITY TREASURER/
TAX -ASSESSOR COLLECTOR
882-1502
cbarr@alamoheightstx.gov

Judie Surratt-CITY SECRETARY/
HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER
882-1503
jsurratt@alamoheightstx.gov

Marian Ramirez-ASSISTANT TO CITY
MANAGER/DEPUTY CITY SECRETARY
882-1508
mramirez@alamoheightstx.gov

Jack Guerra - COMMUNITY DEV. MGR.
882-1504
jguerra@alamoheightstx.gov

Website: www.alamoheightstx.gov

CITY BRIEFS

Attention Residents Interested in Serving on a Board or Commission

Citizens are encouraged to submit an application to serve on the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Board of Adjustments or the Architectural Review Board.

To learn more about each board and to receive an application form, please contact Jack Guerra, AICP, Community Development Manager, Department of Public Works, 882-1504, jguerra@alamoheightstx.gov.

Community Resource Officer Named

Officer J.W. Petrash is the new community resource officer. A veteran police officer with more than 25 years of experience, Petrash has served the Alamo Heights Police Department as a patrol officer for 17 years. He holds a Master Peace Officer Certification, is a D.A.R.E. instructor and has cross trained as a hostage negotiator.

The Community Resource Officer is responsible for providing and/or coordinating community based projects and programs including residential crime prevention and business security, adult and youth citizen police academies, as well as other youth education and diversion programs (D.A.R.E.).

Emergency Services Citizens' Academy

The Alamo Heights Police Department and Fire Department are pleased to announce the first Emergency Services Citizens' Academy. Academy classes will begin on October 4th and will continue through December 6th, meeting each Thursday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The Emergency Services Citizens' Academy will combine presentations and demonstrations of advanced emergency services topics provided by police, fire, and paramedic staff. Additionally, participants will have the opportunity to participate in hands-on activities such as repelling a wall, learning self-defense and rescue techniques.

The Emergency Services Citizens' Academy welcomes residents, business owners and their employees to attend. This will also be a great new experience for past Citizen's Police Academy participants. For more information or to get an application, please contact Officer J.W. Petrash in the Community Resource Office at (210) 832-2201 or send an e-mail to jpetrash@alamoheightstx.gov. Please include the name of all persons interested in attending, a business name if applicable, your address, and a telephone number.

Construction Hours

To reduce the impact of construction on neighbors, the city of Alamo Heights has ordinances that specify authorized hours for construction or demolition.

Weekday hours are limited to work preparation from 7-8 a.m. with construction work from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Clean-up may be done from 5-6 p.m. No work is permitted on city holidays, such as the Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

Contractors may request and are occasionally granted permission to work other than established work hours if extenuating circumstances exist. Additionally, some types of minor construction are exempt from work hour limitations. Work performed by the home or business owner, painting, work within a building by a contractor and landscaping by a contractor are not regulated.

For more information, please call the Department of Public Works at 826-0516.

Pay Your Water Bill the Easy Way

Paying your water bill online through your bank is a great way to save money and keep track of your bills. To ensure that the transaction is posted to the correct account, customers should make certain that the bank lists the utility account number on the check. The utility account numbers include eight digits (such as, 00-0000-00). City Hall receives checks for numerous types of payments making it difficult to determine what customers intend to pay.

Another convenient option for paying your water bill is through the automatic bank draft program. Each month the amount of your bill will be automatically deducted from the account you have designated—no need to write and mail a check. You will receive a bill each month, indicating the amount due and the date when it will be deducted from your account. For more information and a form to sign up, call Lety Hernandez, Utility Billing Coordinator, at 882-1507.

Beginning of the School Year Requires Caution

When school begins on August 27, citizens should be particularly careful when driving on streets around the school campuses and along routes where children may be walking or riding their bicycles. Please remember school zones are 20 miles per hour. Always plan ahead to avoid being rushed and to help maintain the excellent safety record the city of Alamo Heights enjoys.